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understood that my wish is to include within the claims of the patent warranted hereon all such changes and modifications as reasonably come within my contribution to the art.--

5 **IN THE CLAIMS:**

On page 4 of the claims, at line 1, please change "PATENT CLAIMS" to -- **I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION**--.

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice

Please add new claims 9-16 as follows:

10 9. A method for reducing pump light in an exit of a fiber laser formed of a fiber core surrounded by an inner fiber portion which in turn is surrounded by a sheath, comprising the steps of:

15 providing a last section of the fiber laser preceding a light exit for laser light thereof so that at least a portion of the sheath is not provided.

10. The method according to claim 9 including the step of at least partially stripping said last section of said fiber laser of said sheath.

20 11. The method according to claim 10 wherein the sheath is entirely stripped away at said last section.

25 12. The method according to claim 9 wherein during manufacture said last section of said fiber laser has only at least a part of a sheath provided thereon.

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13. The method according to claim 12 wherein during manufacture said last section has no sheath provided thereon at all.

14. The method according to claim 9 including the step of providing said sheath such that a diameter thereof tapers in wedge-like fashion toward said light exit in a region of said last section.

15. The method according to claim 9 including the step of removing at least the portion of said sheath at said last section by etching.

16. A fiber laser, comprising:  
a fiber core surrounded by an inner fiber portion which in turn is surrounded by an outer sheath; and  
at a last section of the fiber laser leading to a light exit for laser light said sheath being at least partially removed.

17. The fiber laser according to claim 16 wherein the sheath at said last section is entirely removed.

18. The fiber laser according to claim 16 wherein at a region of said last section said sheath tapers in wedge-like fashion toward said light exit.

19. The fiber laser according to claim 16 wherein at said last section said sheath is removed

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